

ABSTRACTA CONTROL APPARATUS

5 A control apparatus (34) is provided for enabling a user to control by spoken commands a function of a processor-controlled machine (3a) couplable to speech processing apparatus. The control apparatus is configured to provide:

10 a client module (343) for receiving dialog interpretable instructions derived from speech data processed by the speech processing apparatus;

15 a dialog communication arrangement (340, 342a, 340) for interpreting received dialog interpretable instructions using a dialog compatible with the processor-controlled machine (3a) and for communicating with the processor-controlled machine (3a) using the dialog to enable information to be provided to the user in response to received dialog interpretable instructions, thereby enabling a dialog to be conducted with the user;

20 a dialog determiner (342) for determining from information provided by the processor-controlled machine (3a) the dialog to be used with that processor-controlled machine; and

25 a machine communicator (341) communicating with the processor-controlled machine to cause the processor-controlled machine to carry out a function in accordance with the dialog with the user.

FIG 3

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